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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



RAGE OF THE REPTILE!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**™

BILL MANTLO * JIM MOONEY * FRANK SPRINGER * ALLEN MILGROM * JIM SHOOTER
AUTHOR ARTIST INKER EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AS THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN THING NEW YORK CITY,
A CERTAIN WEBBED WONDER SWINGS TOWARD A
CHELSEA APARTMENT HOUSE...

A ZOO STORY

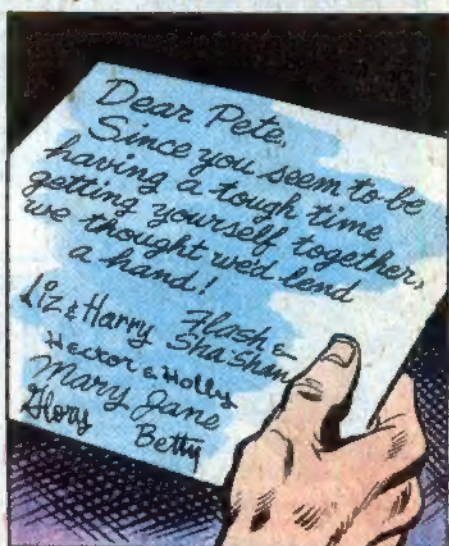
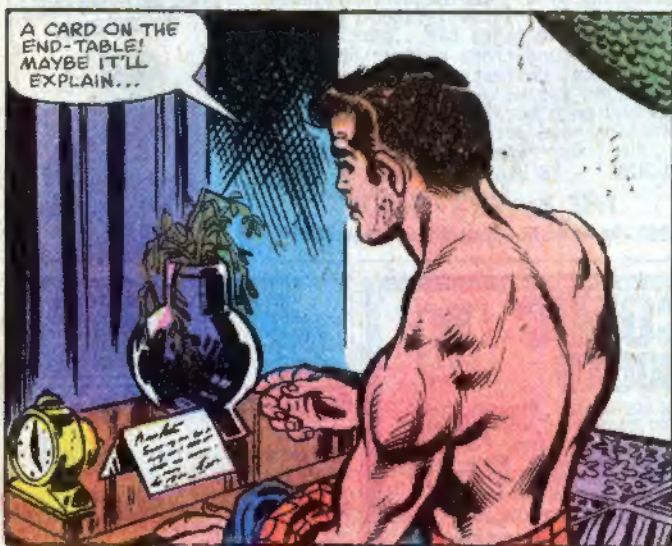
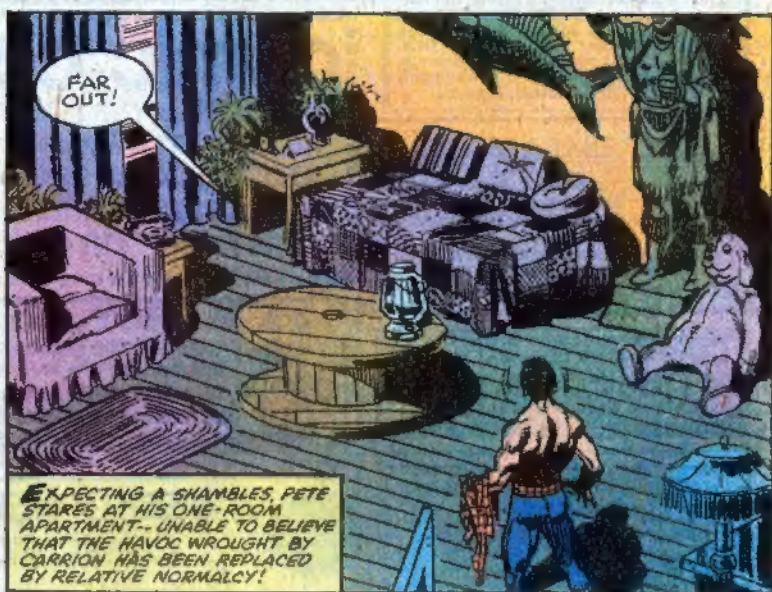
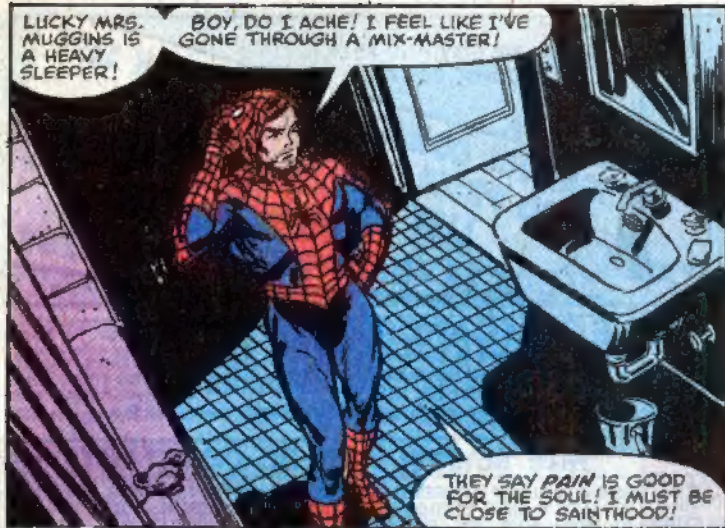


LIKE
SOMEBODY
ONCE SAID: BE
IT EVER SO
HUMBLE, THERE'S
NO PLACE LIKE
HOME!

AND, WITH THAT RATHER UNDERSTATED OPENING, WE BEGIN
A BRAND-NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF EVERYONE'S FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

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WOW! THEY
FIXED THE
WHOLE PLACE
UP WHILE I
WAS GONE!



HOW DO I RATE
FRIENDS
LIKE THAT?



I PROBABLY
DON'T! I JUST
HOPE THEY
DON'T CATCH
ON!



THAT SOLVES
THE CLEAN-UP
QUESTION,
THOUGH!

I'LL SHAVE
AFTER
BREAKFAST!
CAN'T REMEMBER
WHEN I ATE
LAST!



MUST'VE BEEN THE
MEAL DAREDEVIL
PREPARED FOR ME
AFTER OUR FIGHT
WITH THE MASKED
MARAUDER! *

MY HEART
WASN'T
REALLY IN
THAT MEAL,
MUCH LESS MY
APPETITE.



HHMMM...NOT
MUCH TO
CHOOSE FROM.
MILK, EGGS--

--AND THAT CHEM
BOOK I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR!



HOLY SMOKES--THAT REMINDS
ME! I'VE GOT TO REPORT TO
THE GRADUATE DEPARTMENT
TODAY! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT--!

BLECHH--
THE MILK'S
SOUR!



WELL, WHY SHOULD IT
BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM
THE REST OF MY LIFE?

RRING

HUH? THE
DOORBELL?
AT FIVE A.M.?



MORNIN', MR. P--
I THOUGHT I HEARD
YOU BUMPIN' AROUND
IN HERE!

GLORY
GRANT!
YOU'RE
SOME
EARLY-
RISER,
LADY!

GOT TO
GET AN EARLY
START, PETE!



I'M MOVING OUT TODAY AND, WELL--
I JUST COULDN'T TAKE HARVEY
HERE WITH ME!

HE SEEMS TO
THRIVE ON
TENEMENT AIR!

WHEN DID
YOU DECIDE
TO MOVE,
GLORY?



WHEN I BECAME J. JONAH
JAMESON'S SECRETARY! WITH
THE MONEY THE BUGLE PAYS
I CAN AFFORD BETTER DIGS!

I WISH I
COULD, BUT
AS A
FREELANCER--!

GOOD GRIEF! MY
SPIDEY COSTUME--
IN PLAIN SIGHT!



GOTTA MOVE
FAST!

PETE,
WHAT ON
EARTH--?



UH-- JUST COVERING A DRAFT! CAN'T
LET HARVEY CATCH COLD IN THIS
CHILLY PRE-DAWN AIR, YOU KNOW!

PRE-
DAWN?!
YOU FEELIN'
OKAY, PETE?



OH, NOW I
GET IT!

SHE'S
POINTING
BEHIND
ME! DID
SHE
SEE--?!

YOUR CLOCK!
IT'S STOPPED AT
FIVE, MY MAN!



HUH?
CLOCK?

MY, YOU ARE IN A STATE!
LET ME DRAW THE DRAPES
AND OPEN THESE BLINDS--



--AND LET SOME LIGHT TRICKLE
DOWN THE AIR-SHAFT INTO THIS
MAUSOLEUM OF A ROOM!

VOILA,
MR. PARKER!
DAY! ABOUT
9 A.M. TO
BE EXACT!

SONUVAGUN!
SO IT IS!

WHEW!



WELL, S'LONG, PETE! I'LL CATCH YOU WHEN YOU DROP BY THE BUGLE!

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEW PLACE, GLORY!

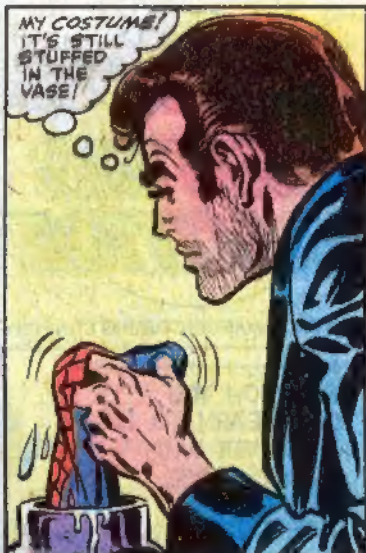
GEE, WE SAW SO LITTLE OF EACH OTHER AS FRIENDS OR NEIGHBORS--

--AND NOW GLORY'S MOVING OUT!



IS THERE EVER GOING TO COME A DAY WHEN I CAN MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS DESPITE MY WEB-SLINGING?

WEB...? OH, NO!

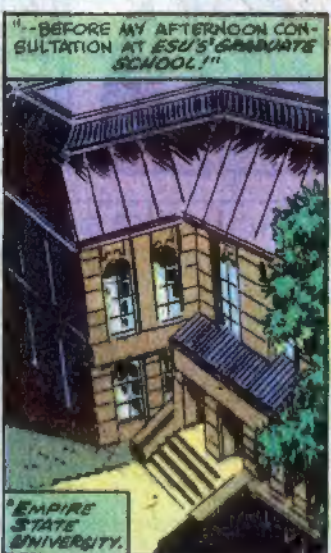


MY COSTUME! IT'S STILL STUFFED IN THE VASE!



SOAKING WET!

OH WELL, IT'LL DRY ON THE RADIATOR WHILE I CATCH A FEW HOURS SLEEP--



"--BEFORE MY AFTERNOON CONSULTATION AT ESU'S GRADUATE SCHOOL!"

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.



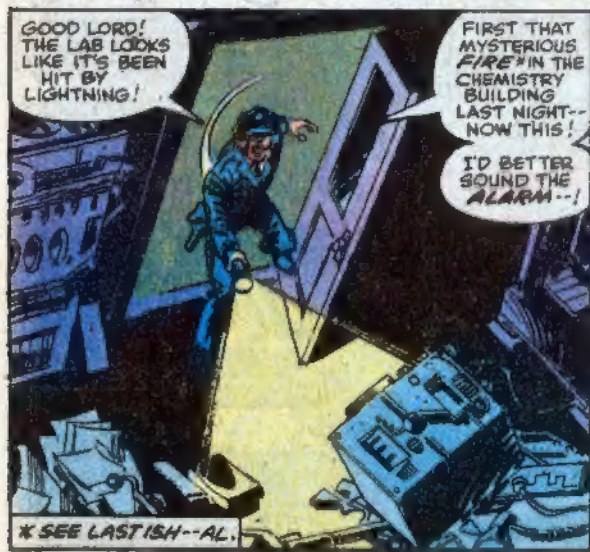
WHERE, A FEW HOURS EARLIER...

ADMINISTRATION

WHAT IN THUNDER--?!

CRASH!

THAT CAME FROM THE BIOLOGY LAB!



GOOD LORD! THE LAB LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN HIT BY LIGHTNING!

FIRST THAT MYSTERIOUS FIRE* IN THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING LAST NIGHT-- NOW THIS!

I'D BETTER SOUND THE ALARM--!

*SEE LAST ISH--AL.



YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT, MAMMAL!

FWAP!

H-HEY?!



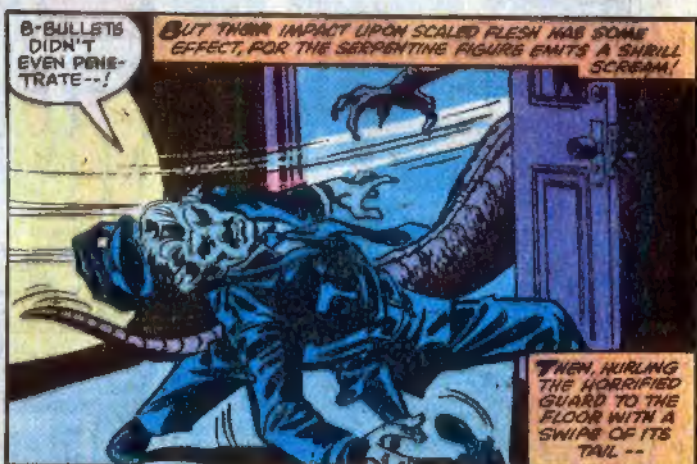
M-MERCIFUL HEAVEN! SOMETHING STRUCK AT ME FROM THE SHADOWS!

SOMETHING COLD AND CLAMMY-- SERPENTINE! THERE, IT'S CAUGHT IN THE BEAM OF MY FLASHLIGHT!



I-IN THE NAME OF SANITY-- IT CAN'T BE!!

POW!
POW!
POW!



B-BULLETS DIDN'T EVEN PENETRATE--!

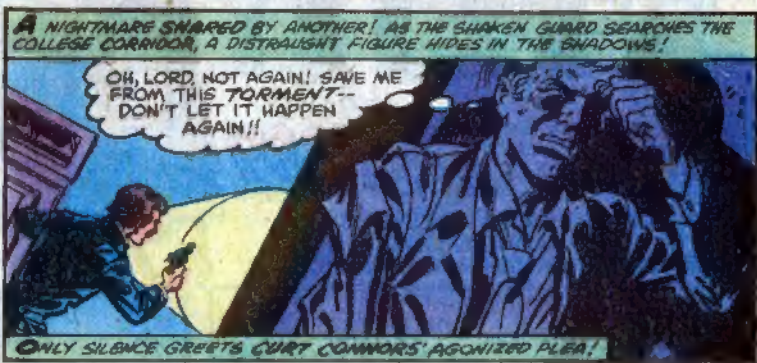
BUT THEIR IMPACT UPON SCALED FLESH HAS SOME EFFECT, FOR THE SERPENTINE FIGURE EMITS A SHRIILL SCREAM!

THEN, HURLING THE HORRIFIED GUARD TO THE FLOOR WITH A SWIPE OF ITS TAIL --



-- THE CREATURE VANISHES INTO THE DARK HALLWAY!

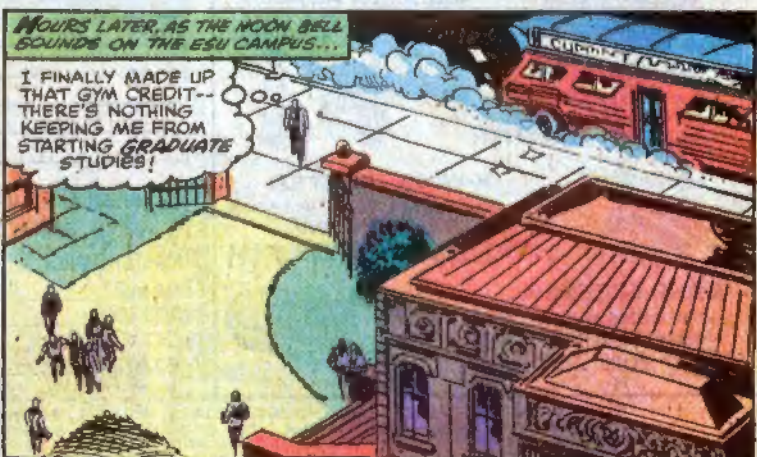
GONE! IF NOT FOR MY BRUISES-- I'D THINK IT WAS ALL SOME HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!



A NIGHTMARE SHARED BY ANOTHER! AS THE SHAKEN GUARD SEARCHES THE COLLEGE CORRIDOR, A DISTRAUGHT FIGURE HIDES IN THE SHADOWS!

OH, LORD, NOT AGAIN! SAVE ME FROM THIS TORMENT-- DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!

ONLY SILENCE GREETS CURT CONNORS' AGONIZED PLEA!



HOURS LATER, AS THE NOON BELL SOUNDS ON THE ESU CAMPUS...

I FINALLY MADE UP THAT GYM CREDIT-- THERE'S NOTHING KEEPING ME FROM STARTING GRADUATE STUDIES!

I'VE WAITED MONTHS FOR THIS DAY-- IT'S THE CULMINATION OF EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED! SO WHY ARE MY KNEES KNOCKING? SAY--

-- ISN'T THAT FLASH AND SHA SHAN IN THAT EIGHT-CYLINDER DREAM-MACHINE?

WELL, IF IT ISN'T BOOKWORM PARKER! HOW'S IT HANGIN', PETE?

FLASH BOUGHT THE CAR WITH HIS VETERAN'S BENEFITS, PETE!

JUST FINE, FLASH! HEY, WHERE'D YOU STEAL THE WHEELS?

I FIGURED LIFE'S SHORT, SO WHY NOT ENJOY IT? WANNA TAKE A SPIN, GOOD BUDDY?

CAN'T FLASH! TODAY'S MY FIRST DAY OF GRAD SCHOOL! ARE YOU REGISTERED?

NOPE! I'M TAKING A YEAR OFF TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER! BUT WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AROUND!

KEEP IN TOUCH, PETE!

COUNT ON IT, PEOPLE!

FUNNY FLASH AND I STARTED OUT AS ENEMIES IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND NOW WE'RE BEST FRIENDS!

I WONDER IF WE'LL GET TO SEE MUCH OF EACH OTHER ONCE SCHOOL PRESSURES START?

HEY, THE POLICE ARE STILL COMBING THE RUINS OF PROFESSOR WARREN'S OLD LAB!

"THEY WON'T FIND ANYTHING, THOUGH! BOTH CARRION AND HIS SPIDER-MORPH WERE DESTROYED IN THE LAB FIRE! I BARELY ESCAPED!"

*LAST ISH... AL

HAVING A PRIVATE DAYDREAM, AMIGO-- OR CAN ANYBODY BUTT IN?

HECTOR! HOLLY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

EVERYTHING, PETE! HECTOR AND I ARE GOING TO SET UP A MOBILE COLLEGE IN THE SOUTH BRONX!

SO! WE GET CREDIT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME!

IT'S A CHANCE FOR ME TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER SUPERHERO!

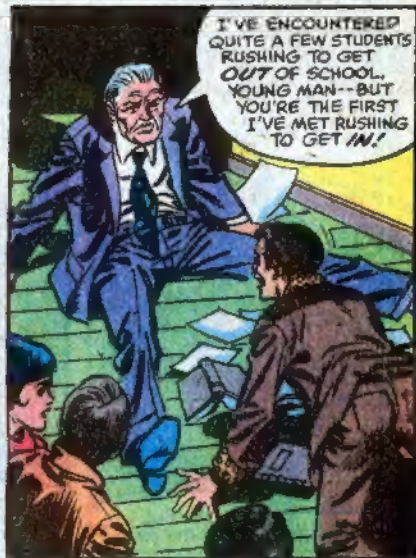
BUT THE WHITE TIGER WILL BE THERE IF HE'S NEEDED!

SOUNDS GREAT!

I GUESS WE WON'T GET A CHANCE TO SEE MUCH OF EACH OTHER, BUT IF YOU EVER NEED YOUR SCIENCE HOMEWORK CORRECTED...

WE'LL GET TOGETHER SOON, COMPADRE!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, PETE!



I COULDN'T ASK FOR A NICER TOUR GUIDE!

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE, MR. PARKER!

IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME...?

SURE, BUT WHY THE COLD SHOULDER? AND I PREFER BEING CALLED PETE TO MR. PARKER!

YOU CAN CALL ME MARCY-- AND I DON'T LIKE SHEPHERDING PART-TIME GENIUSES AROUND CAMPUS!

YOU SAY HE HIT YOU WITH HIS TAIL??

HONEST TRUTH, LIEUTENANT D'ANGELO!

I'VE SEEN YOUR SCHOOL RECORDS, PETE! YOU COULD BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS--YET YOU DON'T SEEM TO CARE!

LOOK MARCY-- I WORK TO SUPPORT MYSELF AND A SICK AUNT! THAT AND OTHER THINGS TAKE UP A LOT OF MY TIME AND... HEY!

A FLASH OF LIGHT FROM THE BIOLOGY LAB!

RACING IN THE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE SEE...

IT'S COMING FROM THAT MACHINE!

LOOK! ON THE FLOOR-- IT'S DOCTOR CONNORS!

UNHH!

CONNORS? CURT CONNORS?!

I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THAT MACHINE-- IT'S CONNORS' ENERVATOR!

DOCTOR CONNORS IS AT ESU ON A RESEARCH GRANT!

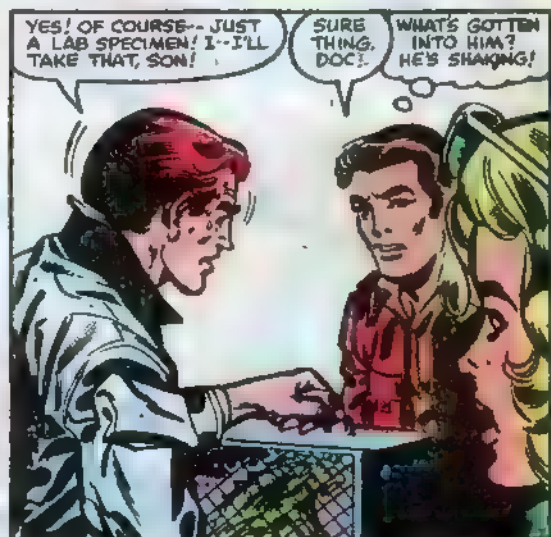
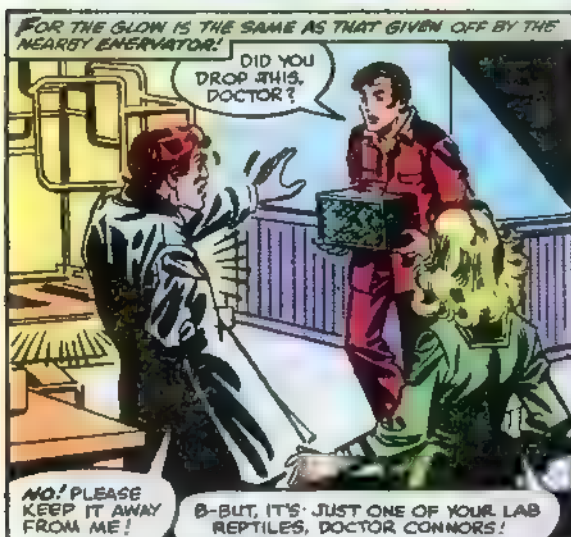
BUT WHAT HAPPENED?

UH, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MARCY! JUST A POWER SURGE-- KNOCKED ME OFF MY FEET!

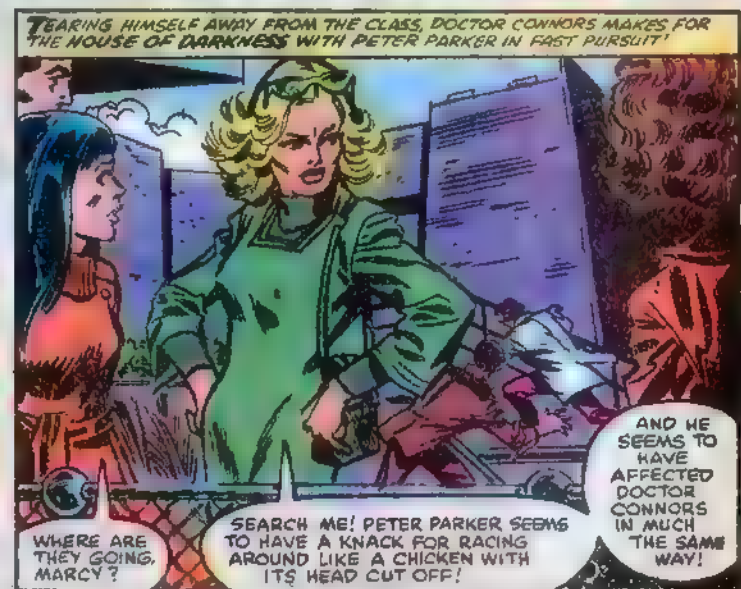
CONNORS IS A BRILLIANT BIOLOGIST, A PIONEER IN REPTILE STUDIES!

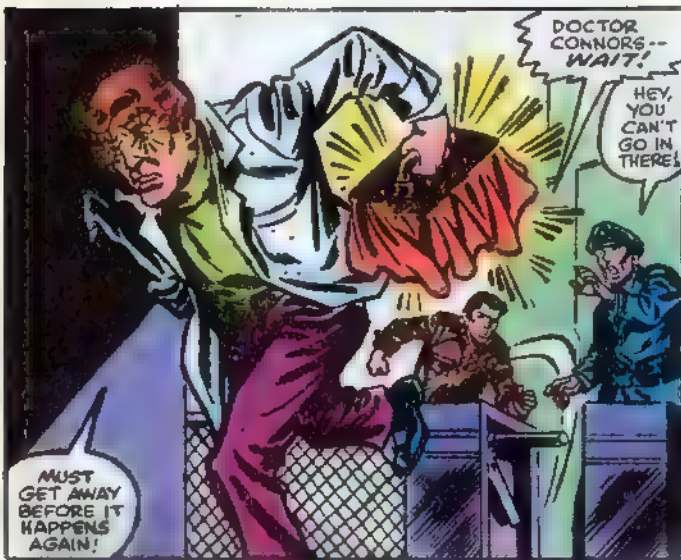
"BUT, IN HIS ATTEMPT TO REGENERATE HIS MISSING ARM... HE INADVERTENTLY TURNED HIMSELF INTO--"

"--THE LETHAL LIZARD!"



THUS PETER PARKER IS THROWN INTO HIS GRADUATE DUTIES AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT-- THE FIRST OF WHICH IS TO AID DOCTOR CONNORS IN GUIDING AN UNDERGRADUATE CLASS ON A RESEARCH TOUR AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS BROMIX ZOO!

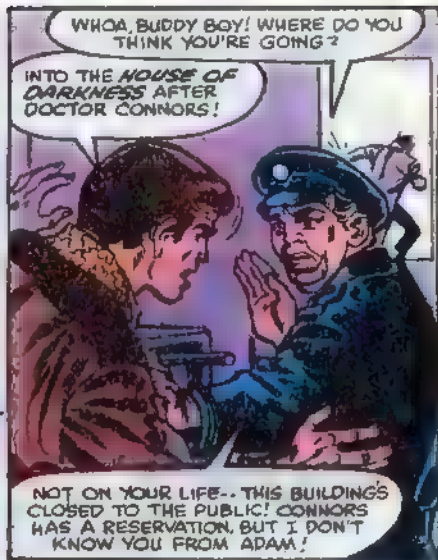




MUST GET AWAY BEFORE IT HAPPENS AGAIN!

DOCTOR CONNORS-- WAIT!

HEY, YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!



WHOA, BUDDY BOY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? INTO THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS AFTER DOCTOR CONNORS!

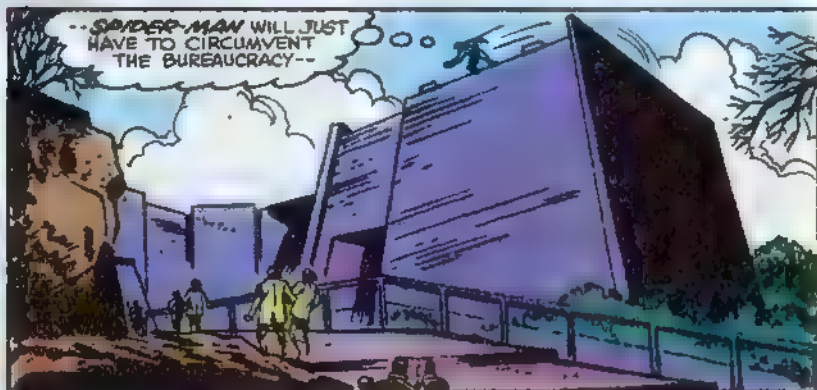
NOT ON YOUR LIFE-- THIS BUILDING'S CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC! CONNORS HAS A RESERVATION, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU FROM ADAM!



NO SENSE WASTING TIME ARGUING WITH THAT SECURITY GUARD!

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH DOC CONNORS-- AND I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP WITH HIM, BEFORE THE CLASS DOES!

AND, SINCE PETER PARKER CAN'T GET IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR--



-- SPIDER-MAN WILL JUST HAVE TO CIRCUMVENT THE BUREAUCRACY--

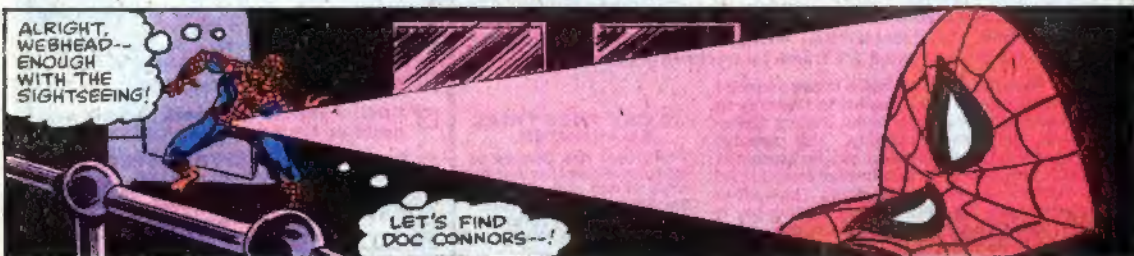
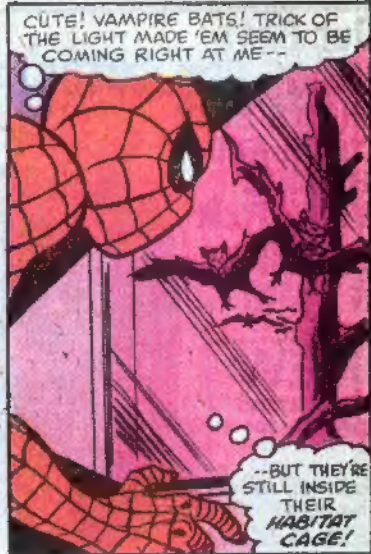


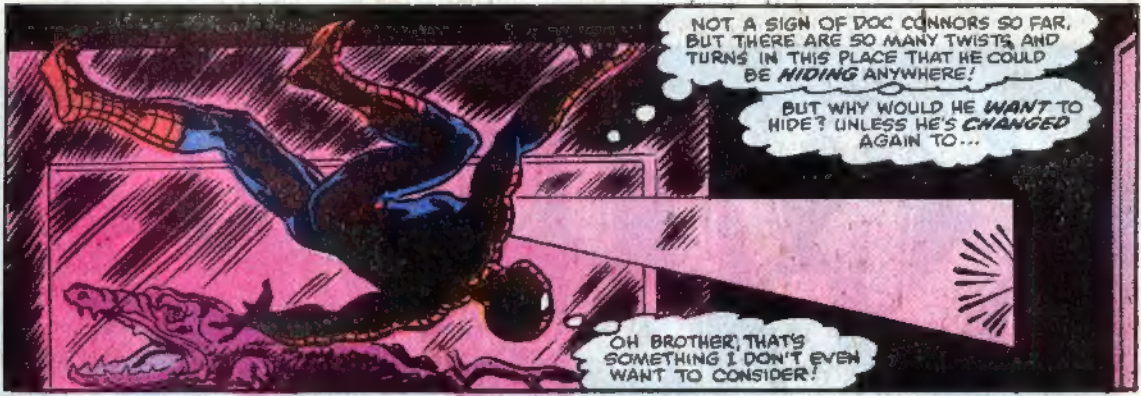
-- AND GO IN THROUGH THE BACK!



CAREFUL, WALL-CRAWLER! SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING JUST LIKE BACK AT THE BIOLOGY LAB!

THERE'S SOME KIND OF LINK BETWEEN CONNORS AND THAT IGUANA AND I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!





NOT A SIGN OF DOC CONNORS SO FAR, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY TWISTS AND TURNS IN THIS PLACE THAT HE COULD BE HIDING ANYWHERE!

BUT WHY WOULD HE WANT TO HIDE? UNLESS HE'S CHANGED AGAIN TO...

OH BROTHER, THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T EVEN WANT TO CONSIDER!



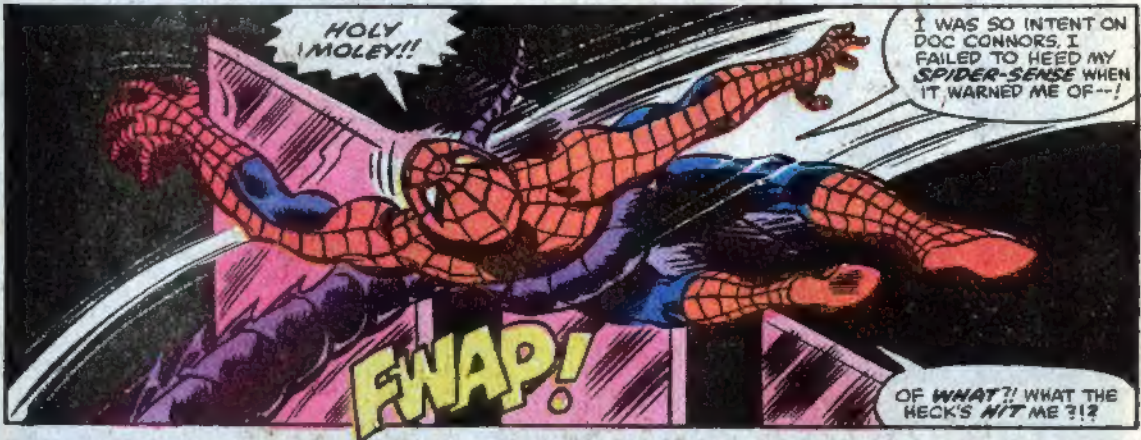
WAIT, MY SPIDER-BEAM'S PICKING UP! IT'S A HAND--



--CONNECTED TO AN ARM--



--CONNECTED TO... DOC CONNORS?! IS HE UNCONSCIOUS, OR--?

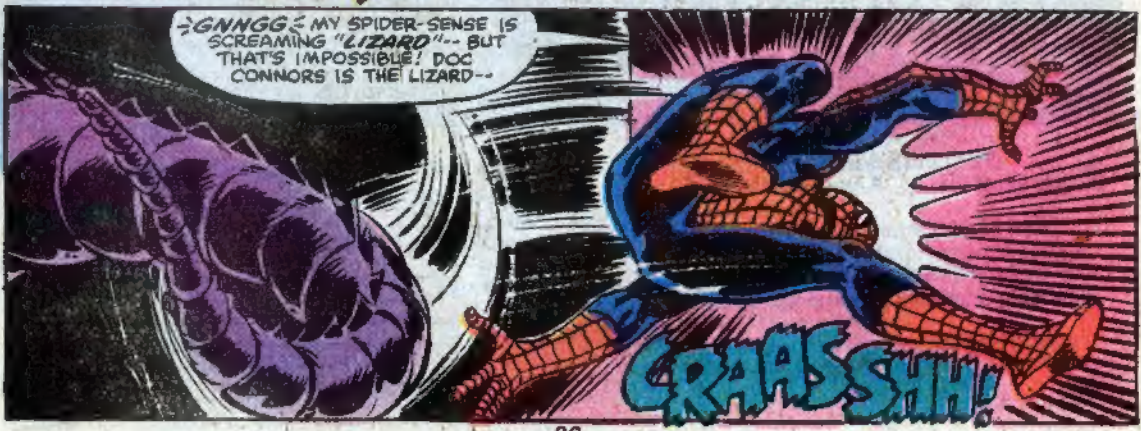


HOLY MOLEY!!

I WAS SO INTENT ON DOC CONNORS, I FAILED TO HEED MY SPIDER-SENSE WHEN IT WARNED ME OF--!

FWAP!

OF WHAT?! WHAT THE HECK'S HIT ME?!?



>GNNGG< MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SCREAMING "LIZARD"-- BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! DOC CONNORS IS THE LIZARD--

CRAASHH!

--AND THE
DOC'S OUT
COLD ON
THE FLOOR!

I CAN SENSE
ITS EVERY MOVE,
BUT I CAN'T SEE
WHAT IT IS I'M
FIGHTING!

AND NOT
KNOWING IS
THROWING
ME OFF
BALANCE!

HSSSSSS

IT HISSSES LIKE
THE LIZARD!

INTERFERING MAMMAL!
I WILL CRUSH YOU AS I
CRUSHED THE SNIVELLING
CONNORS!

IT EVEN *TALKS*
LIKE THE LIZARD!

SO I'M EITHER UP
AGAINST THE MOST
DRAMATIC CASE OF
SPLIT-PERSONALITY
ON RECORD--

--OR MY
SHADOWED AND
SERPENTINE
ATTACKER *ISN'T*
THE LIZARD I
KNOW AND
LOATHE...

...BUT SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!!

AHRR! YOU CANNOT HURT ME--
CONNORS COULD NOT HURT ME--
ONLY ACCURSED LIGHT CAUSES
ME PAIN! BUT I WILL SMASH YOU--
SMASH THE LIGHT!

FOR NOTHING WILL
STAND IN THE WAY OF
THE INCREDIBLE
IGUANA!!

NEXT **NIGHT OF THE IGUANA!**